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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully present Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-27, 29 and 30 for examination in the RCE filed herewith. Claims 8, 18 and 28 were previously canceled and Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended herein to more clearly define the scope of the presently claimed invention. No new claims have been submitted. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims and remarks presented herein overcome the Examiner's rejections in the Final Office Action dated January 15, 2004 in the parent application.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-27, 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobe-shi, European Patent Application EP 0948978A2 ("Kobe-shi") in view of Junkins et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,198,486 ("Junkins"). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner submits that Kobe-shi teaches various elements of independent Claims 1, 11 and 21. The Examiner admits, however, that Kobe-shi does not teach adjusting a resolution of a 3D model. The Examiner suggests that this element is disclosed in Junkins and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to adjust the resolution of the model in Kobe-shi because this would make it easier to remove excessive details if less detailed models were required. Similarly, the Examiner admits that Kobe-shi does not teach rendering a shadow having the adjusted resolution of the 3D model on the surface using the projected element, but that this feature would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art beause adjusting the resolution of the 3D model would correspondingly affect the resolution of the image projected from it. Finally, the Examiner admits that although Kobe-shi does not disclose rendering the 3D model at a resolution that is higher than the adjusted resolution, Junkins essentially teaches this element.

During a telephone interview with Applicants' prior counsel (on Wednesday, February 18, 2004), the Examiner (Examiner Wallace) and his supervisor (Examiner Zimmerman) indicated that adding the limitation of rendering the shadow and mesh concurrently would overcome the outstanding rejections. Applicants subsequently

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submitted an Amendment in Reply to Final Action on February 24, 2004, that included the discussed claim amendments in Claims 1, 11 and 21. In an Advisory Action dated March 10, 2004, however, the Examiner indicated that the proposed amendment raised new issues that require further consideration and/or search, and that the amendment was therefore not entered.

Applicants hereby respectfully submit for reconsideration Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-27, 29 and 30, including the previously discussed amendments to Claims 1, 11 and 21. Applicants respectfully submit that since these amendments incorporate the Examiner's suggested changes, the outstanding rejections are now moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections to Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-27, 29 and 30.

Finally, Applicants note that the Examiner crossed out the Lee, et al, reference cited in Applicants' IDS dated November 25, 2003. Applicants subsequently resubmitted the reference, together with a new Form PTO-1449 on February 24, 2004, with the Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action. Although the amendment was not entered, the Examiner initialed Form PTO-1449, which leads Applicants to believe that the reference is now part of the record in this case.
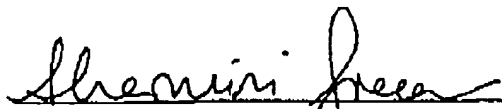
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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome and that Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-27, 29 and 30 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance in this case. If the Examiner has any remaining questions, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 406-2362.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 10, 2004

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